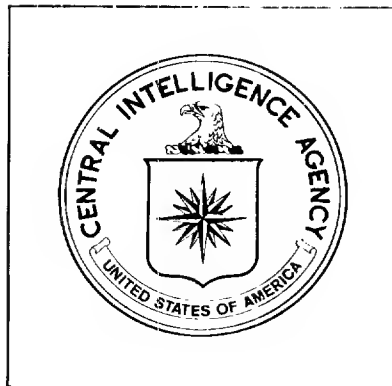


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MIDDLE EAST - AFRICA - SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Central African Republic

Plans to Resume Relations with Israel

25X6 *1/4* President Bokassa announced last week that his government plans to resume diplomatic relations with Israel. No date has been announced, but Bokassa has indicated [REDACTED] it will take place in "the next months." A private Israeli business delegation was in Bangui when the announcement was made.

25X6 *2* Bokassa has been considering re-establishing relations with Israel for some time and reportedly has discussed the move with several other African leaders. [REDACTED]

25X6

4 [REDACTED] Sierra Leone President Stevens has told the US ambassador in Freetown that his government is now reconsidering its position on relations with Israel. Senegal's Senghor, Ivory Coast's Houphouet-Boigny, and Ghana's Acheampong--all of whom reluctantly broke with Israel during the October 1973 war--may also be rethinking their positions. These leaders, like Bokassa, are disappointed over the meager financial aid that the Arabs have made available to Africans and the failure of oil producing countries to grant price concessions to African countries.

4 Israeli Foreign Minister Allon met with several unidentified black African officials last month at the UN with a view to persuading them, with aid offers, to resume ties with Israel. The CAR foreign minister may have been among the officials contacted by Allon. (CONFIDENTIAL)



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Tanzania

Presidential Election Results

President Julius Nyerere was reelected to his fourth five-year term as President of Tanzania in elections on October 26. Although Nyerere was unopposed, the voters could cast a "yes" or "no" ballot in the secret voting. Nearly seven percent of the valid votes were "no" this year, compared with about three percent in 1970.

In cotton- and tobacco-growing areas near Lake Victoria, "no" votes ranged from 19 to 24 percent-- in most cases more than twice the number cast in 1970. Nyerere had visited these areas extensively during October.

Cotton and tobacco farmers have been angered by the government's poorly-managed crash program, begun last year, to expand grain production in order to avoid spending foreign exchange on food imports. Farmers in the Lake Victoria region appear to be dissatisfied with the government's goal of moving the entire rural population into socialist villages by the end of 1976, and by the government's generally inept economic performance. (CONFIDENTIAL)



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